

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00447 071933Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 /100 W  
-----007279 071935Z /46

O R 071655Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6901  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 447

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDEV, WA  
SUBJ: NAMIBIA - PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST SOUTH AFRICA WILL  
DECIDE ITS COURSE WITHIN TWO WEEKS

1. THE LEAD STORIES IN BOTH THE "CAPE TIMES" AND "DIE  
BURGER" OF MARCH 7 QUOTE "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AS SAYING  
THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE WESTERN INITIATIVE ON  
NAMIBIA, AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT DECIDE TO PRESS AHEAD  
WITH AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IF AGREEMENT WITH THE WESTERN  
CONTACT GROUP CANNOT BE REACHED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.  
"DIE BURGER" EMPHASIZED THAT THE WESTERN INITIATIVE HAS  
BEEN GOING ON FOR ALMOST A YEAR, AND THAT "THERE IS A  
STRONG FEELING" THAT THE PROBLEM MUST NOW BE RESOLVED,  
"ONE WAY OR THE OTHER". THE "CAPE TIMES" ARTICLE ALSO  
QUOTED THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AS SAYING THAT ECONOMIC  
RECESSION AND UNCERTAINTY COULD FORCE THE TERRITORY TO  
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GO FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AND END NEGOTIATIONS FOR  
AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE DISPENSATION. HE REPORTEDLY  
ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TIME HAD NOT YET ARRIVED.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BOTH NEWSPAPERS QUOTE 'DIPLOMATIC  
SOURCES' AS THE BASIS FOR THEIR REPORTS, THE SIMILARITY  
OF THEIR ARTICLES IN PUTTING FORWARD A TWO-WEEK TIME

FRAME FOR THE END OF NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS THE  
PROMINENCE OF THE ARTICLES SUGGESTS THAT THE STORIES MAY BE  
WERE BASED ON THE SAG BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS. TWO JOURNALISTS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE 'CAPE TIMES' ARTICLE WOULD NOT CONFIRM  
CATEGORICALLY THAT THIS WAS THE CASE, HOWEVER BOTH DID SAY  
THAT IT WAS A REASONABLE SUPPOSITION.BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAPET00447  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NAMIBIA - PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST SOUTH AFRICA WILL DECIDE ITS COURSE WITHIN TWO WEEKS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014